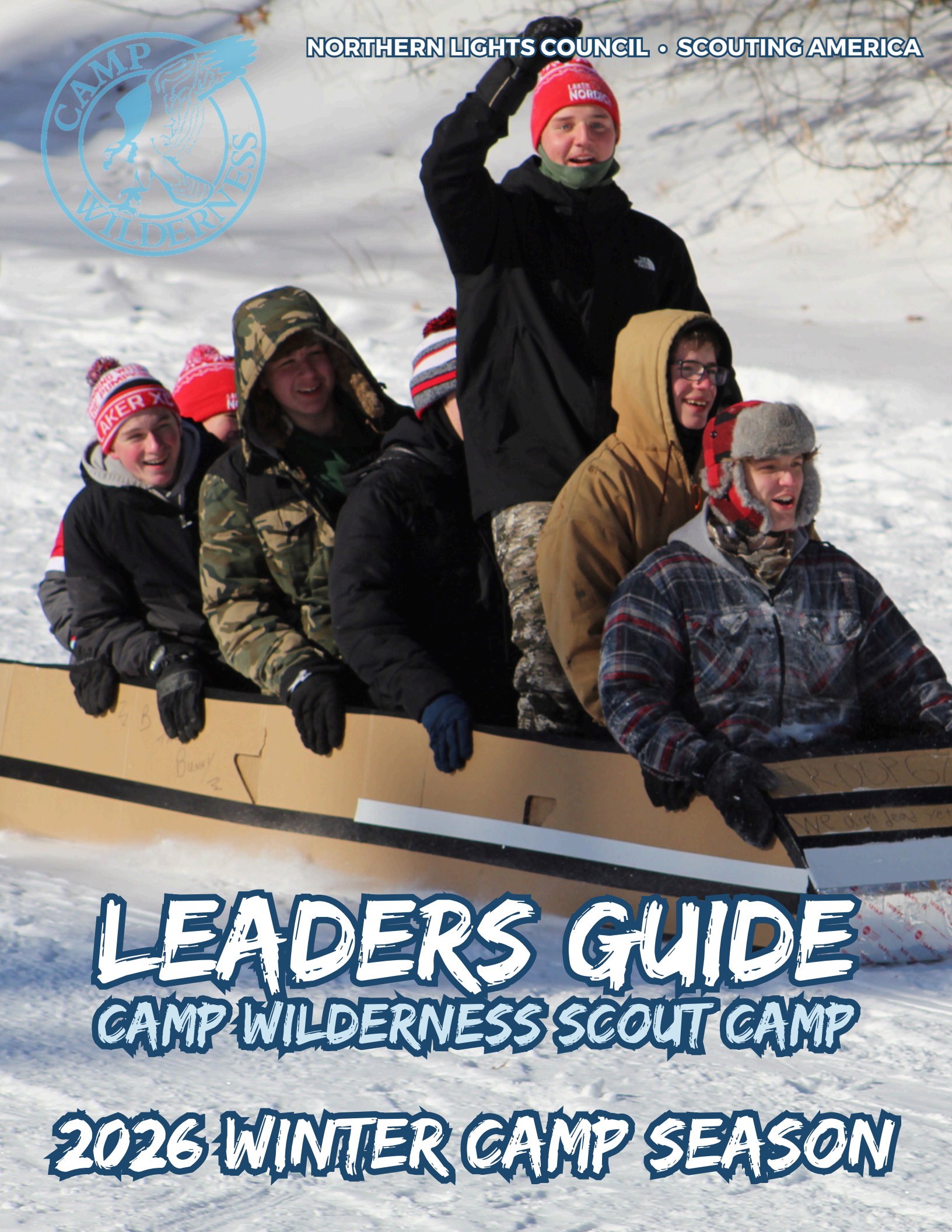


NORTHERN LIGHTS COUNCIL • SCOUTING AMERICA



LEADERS GUIDE

CAMP WILDERNESS SCOUT CAMP

2026 WINTER CAMP SEASON

WELCOME TO WINTER CAMP!

DATES

Winter Camp begins **December 5, 2025** and runs every weekend through **March 7, 2026**. Groups are encouraged to spend the night at camp, but day trips are always welcome on ROMP and Polar Cub Weekends.



WILDERNESS ROMP

Scheduled for the weekend of **January 16-18**, ROMP is a weekend filled with scheduled program activities for Scouts BSA aged youth. You may pay the weekend fee which includes housing, or the day-only fee for \$75 per person.

POLAR CUB CAMP

Polar Cub is two weekends this year; **February 20-22** and **March 6-8**, and is open to Cub Scout families only. The weekend is filled with activities for Cub Scout age youth. You may pay the weekend fee which includes housing, or the day only fee for \$75 per person.

If your unit would like to make other arrangements, please contact Missy at missy.hendrickx@scouting.org

LOCATION

Camp Wilderness is located 17 miles north of Park Rapids, Minnesota. We feature over 2,400 acres of largely underdeveloped forest area with many pine and birch trees. Camp Wilderness borders two lakes and has eleven more within its boundaries. The camp is home to abundant wildlife such as ospreys, loons, bears, wolves, deer, and bald eagles.

DATES & PROGRAMS

2025-2026 WINTER CAMP DATES

Session 1: December 5-7

Session 2: December 12-14

Session 3 : January 2-4

Session 4: January 9-10*

Session 5(ROMP): January 16-18*

Session 6: January 23-25

Session 7 : January 30-February 1*

Session 8: February 6-8

Session 9: February 13-15*

Session 10 (Polar Cub 1): February 20-22*

Session 11: February 27- March 1*

Session 12 (Polar Cub 2): March 6-8*

* denotes food service is included



PROGRAM OFFERINGS:

(1) Food Service Weekends

Although meals are provided, there are no scheduled program activities. Create your own program and choose from the miles of cross-country ski trails, snow shoe, play broom ball, and much more! All of the equipment is available for use throughout the weekend in the Adult Leader Study.

(2) Non-Food Service Weekends

There is no food or program provided by Camp Wilderness during these weekends. Units will be on their own for planning activities. Create your own program and choose from the miles of cross-country ski trails, snow shoe, play broom ball, and much more! All of the equipment is available for use throughout the weekend in the Adult Leader Study. Each unit will prepare their own meals!

(3) Wilderness ROMP Weekend (Scouts BSA & Venturers only)

The main event of the weekend takes place from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM on Saturday, January 17. The price for this event includes three meals, equipment usage, and patch. Program consists of Scout skill outdoor challenges, cardboard sled races, broomball tournament, and more! Cabins are available for the weekend and run for the normal charge of winter camp. The day-only price is \$75 per person.

"Winter SurTHRIVEal" is for Scouts ages 13+. This outdoor camping experience is like no other! Scouts will learn to eat, sleep, and survive in the cold Minnesota winter. This begins Friday night and ends Saturday morning. Camp will provide a sleeping bag, over-boots, and sleeping pad. Everything else must be brought with.

(4) Polar Cub Weekends (Cub Scouts only)

This program will be held twice this winter (same program, offered twice). The main event takes place on the weekends of February 21 and March 7 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. The fee covers three meals, equipment usage, and patch. Program consists of Scout skill outdoor challenges, cardboard sled races, broomball tournament, and more! Cabins are available for the weekend and run for the normal charge of winter camp. Day only price is \$75 per person.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

CHANGES AND REMINDERS

Winter Camp is all-inclusive! This means the fee you pay includes all your equipment, patch, and food (if you attend a food weekend).

Pricing is per person this year!

Decisions to cancel winter camp will be made **no later than noon** on the Friday camp is supposed to start. We want to make sure we have the best weather info available to make sure you are safe! If camp is cancelled, you will be able to switch to a different weekend without penalty.

Check in is from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Friday night. Check-in will be at the Health Lodge. Make sure you have parts A & B ready for all participants (youth and adult). If you are not able to make it to camp for any reason on Friday evening, please contact camp at 218.732.4674 or Missy at 218.252.8706.



RESERVATIONS

Reservations for the upcoming winter camping season are open online at **ScoutingNLC.org** starting September 15, 2025. A \$100 deposit is required for each cabin reserved, the remaining balance must be paid online 30 days prior to your arrival. Payment in full is due 30 days before you arrive. Payments can be made online!

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation of your reservation must be made 30 days prior to your reservation date or the unit will be charged the full per person fee. Fees are transferable to another weekend. In the event of a cancellation by the council, fees will be refunded or transferable. Special circumstances may be reviewed by the Council Camping Committee.

FOOD SERVICE

Food Service is only offered during select weekends and the cost is included with your overall fee. The ROMP and Polar Cub Weekend day-only fee is \$50 and includes breakfast, lunch and dinner. You will need to have an exact count, along with any special dietary needs (peanut allergy, gluten free, etc.) entered into your online registration to make sure we have enough food available for all.

TRADING POST

The Wanzek Trading Post will be open on Saturday from 12:00 to 6:00 PM.

LODGING

All cabins have **electric heat**. Camp and BSA regulations require separate accommodations for male and female participants. The following cabins help accommodate those needs without needing to rent multiple cabins:

- **Cabin 9:** One bed is separated by a dividing wall from the others
- **Cabins 10 - 12:** There are five beds on each side of a dividing wall
- **Cabin 16:** Four beds are located in a separate room in the back corner
- **Fox Building:** There are two separate rooms from the main living area, each containing four beds
- **Nature Lodge:** Each floor has a separate room that can easily accommodate multiple people



Water is provided at the Dining Hall, Nature Lodge, and both Youth and Adult Shower Buildings. Mattresses or cots are provided. Firewood is not provided, but can be gathered from the surrounding woods. Plan to bag your garbage and leave it in the dumpster prior to leaving camp. **Dishwashing is not allowed in the sinks in any of the buildings!** This does not apply to the Nature Lodge which has a full kitchen on each level. Units coming on non-food weekends must bring their own wash bins to wash dishes.

There is an electric 4-burner stove with an oven in the Fox Building and each level of the Nature Lodge. The Nature Lodge also has a fridge on each level. You need to bring your own stoves for any other cabin. Electricity is available in all cabins for electric stoves, crock pots, etc. Propane stoves must be used outside cabins.

We will try our best to have the heat on before your arrival. However, depending on the amount of snow that may need to be removed to clear roads and parking lots, the staff may not have time to turn on all the cabin heat.

LODGING

BUILDING	CAPACITY	MINIMUM NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS	CO-ED ACCOMMODATIONS	EXTRA AMENITIES
Cabins 1-8	9	No minimum	Single Gender	
Cabin 9	7	No minimum	Single Gender	
Cabins 10-12	10	No minimum	Co-ed	
Cabin 16	13	No minimum	Co-ed	
Fox Building	20	10	Co-ed	Oven
Nature Lodge (Upper)	25	12	Co-ed	Oven, Fridge, Microwave, Bathrooms
Nature Lodge (Lower)	25	12	Co-ed	Oven, Fridge, Microwave, Bathrooms
Upper Jones Tower	25	10	Co-Ed	
Upper Setter	25	10	Co-Ed	
Lower Setter	25	10	Co-Ed	
Upper Starion	25	10	Co-Ed	
Lower Starion	25	10	Co-Ed	
Upper Scheels	25	10	Co-Ed	
Lower Scheels	25	10	Co-Ed	

NEW 2026 PRICING

\$25 per person deposit is due at time of registration.
The remaining balance is due 30 days prior arrival date or building will be forfeited.

Food Service weekends: \$140 per person

Non-Food Service weekends: \$120 per person

Each unit will receive one free adult leader!

**\$25/PERSON DEPOSIT
IS DUE AT TIME OF
REGISTRATION**

**REMAINING BALANCE
IS DUE 30 DAYS PRIOR
ARRIVAL DATE**

**FAILURE TO LEAVE
A FACILITY CLEAN
CHARGES:**

Fox Building	\$45
Dining Hall	\$150
Nature Lodge	\$150
All Other	\$45
Graffiti Min.	\$75

CHECK-IN & PACKING LIST

CHECK-IN

Check-in starts at 7:00 PM on Friday night and goes until 9:00 PM. If you are arriving at a different time, please call the camp to let us know when you will be arriving. Check-in and check-out will be handled by a volunteer Campmaster, Health Officer, Camp Ranger, or the Camp Director. When you arrive in camp, proceed to the Health Lodge. All cabins will be locked when you arrive. If the Campmaster is not present, he or she is checking in another group. Please wait for them to return to assist with your check-in. The Campmaster will open your cabin and will complete a checklist with you that indicates the condition of the cabin and the equipment in it. You will need to sign this checklist upon check-in. **Each participant (youth and adult) needs parts A & B of their health form and the Assumption of Risk Form.**



CHECK-OUT

The Campmaster will go through the same checklist when you check-out. Your group will be charged for leaving the cabin dirty and for any damage. **Graffiti will result in a minimum charge of \$75!**

Failure to check-out with the Campmaster will make your unit liable for any damage found in your cabin. The Campmaster must inspect your cabin and complete the checklist before you leave camp. Check-out of equipment will be done by the Campmaster.

POTENTIAL PACKING LIST

- Coolers for food/snack
- Camp stove
- Dutch ovens
- Wash bins for washing dishes
- Dish Soap
- Sleeping bag/bedding for each Scout
- Sleds
- Skis
- Snow shoes
- Small pack for day hikes
- Winter fishing equipment & ice auger
- Fishing license and bait
- Canteens or water bottles
- Extra mittens/gloves
- Extra boots/shoes
- Extra Socks
- Winter hat
- Winter Coat
- Snow pants
- Hand and foot warmers
- Scarf
- Pocket knife
- Compass
- Scout handbook

CAMP STAFF

CAMP FULL TIME STAFF

The Northern Lights Council employs a full-time Ranger (Andy Kietzman) and Program Director (Missy Hendrickx). They keep the roads and parking lot clear of snow in the winter, run programming, and provide meal service. **They have the responsibility and authority to enforce and carry out all Council policies pertaining to camp.**



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Camp Wilderness has numerous volunteer opportunities to help our campers have a fun and enjoyable time! Those positions include Campmaster, helping in the kitchen, running program areas, medical staff or helping to plan and coordinate event weekends. Those who volunteer are not charged for their weekend at camp. If interested, contact Missy Hendrickx at missy.hendrickx@scouting.org to learn more.

Volunteers can pick one or more weekends to help with various roles at camp.

- **Medical Staff:** Certified medical personnel on site. They will check in all participants at the Health Lodge on Friday evenings, and check them out on Sunday mornings. Must have one of the following certifications and be licensed in the state of Minnesota: Licensed Physician, Licensed Nurse Practitioner, Nurse (RN, LPN, or LVN), Licensed Physician Assistant, Paramedic, EMT, or EMR.
- **Campmaster:** Acts as the person checking people in and out, is a point of contact for leaders, and helps check equipment in and out (skis, snow shoes, etc.)
- **Kitchen Help:** We are always looking for cooks, stewards and dishwashers! We are currently looking for additional help on food service weekends.

AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT

Winter Camp is an all inclusive experience. Camp provides snow shoes, skis, and sleds. There is broom ball equipment available for use too! This equipment is on a first come, first serve basis. If your unit has access to their own equipment, feel free to bring it along. Damage (other than normal wear) to rented equipment will be charged to your unit.



- **Skis and Snowshoes:** A variety of youth and adult sizes available.
- **Sleds:** A variety available for use.
- **Broom Ball:** Equipment is available in the Adult Leader Study. You may bring it down to the overflow parking lot by the Ranger's house. Please return it to the Adult Leader Study after use.
- **Build an Igloo:** A Polar Dome is like an igloo and it can be used to sleep in. It holds 2 to 3 Scouts.
- **Yurt:** A Yurt will be available on a first come, first serve basis. The Yurt will be setup in the Trailblazer's area and is a steel framed structure covered in a canvas tarp. Once snow is on top of the canvas this becomes a well-insulated structure to winter camp in!
- **Curling** is only available at ROMP and Polar Cubs

Scouts can earn their Zero Hero, 100 Below, or 200 Below patch by staying overnight outside when the temperature is below zero degrees. These patches are available for purchase at camp for \$2.75 a piece in the Trading Post.

All equipment must be returned to the Adult Leader Study by 8:30 AM on Sunday!

Equipment Damage Charges:	\$50
	\$25
• Ski damage (per ski)	\$25
• Broken binding (per binding)	Actual cost
• Ski poles damage (per pole)	
• Use of fire extinguisher w/o cause	

ZERO HERO REQUIREMENTS

1. Camp outside overnight in a tent or a snow shelter (cabins do not count).
2. The temperature must reach below 0 degrees Fahrenheit (this does not include wind chill).
3. You must stay outside in the shelter for a minimum of 8 hours.
4. You may not use heaters, hand warmers, etc.

Once you complete these requirements, you can contact the Northern Lights Council Program Director to find out how to obtain this patch.

This award is an extension of the Zero Hero award. It follows the same basic guidelines and is open to all Scouts and Scouters. In addition to the Zero Hero requirements, you must also meet the following requirements for the 100 and 200 Below Zero Awards.

“100 Below Zero” Award

1. Accumulate 100 degrees below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. One degree toward the total of 100 is earned for each degree below 0. The lowest air temperature for each night of camping is counted toward the 100. Wind chill factor does not count. Nights do not have to be consecutive. See the chart for an example.
2. You do not have to earn the Zero Hero Award before earning either the 100 or 200 Below Zero Award.
3. If you earn the Zero Hero, it can be used for points used to earn either the 100 or 200 Below Zero Award.

EVENING	POINTS
First night out, lowest temp is -20°	20
Second night out, lowest temp is -30°	30
Third night out, lowest temp is -25°	25
Fourth night out, lowest temp is -25°	25
Total Earned	100

“200 Below Zero” Award

All points used to earn the 100 Below Zero Award can be used to earn the 200 Below Zero Award. All requirements for the 100 Below Zero Award apply to the 200 Below Zero Award. You are entitled to apply for both the 100 and 200 Below Zero Awards and purchase both patches if you meet the requirements for both.

Upon completion of the requirements, complete and sign the attached camping log and have your advancement chair send it to Northern Lights Council to purchase patches.

ZERO HERO APPLICATION

UNIT #		DISTRICT	
COMPLETED BY			

CAMPER 1

OUTING	DATE	LOWEST TEMP.
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
TOTAL		

CAMPER 2

OUTING	DATE	LOWEST TEMP.
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
TOTAL		